

## Message Text

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15/13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /102 W  
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R 150630Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2042

USMISSIO BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

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CINCUSEUCOM STUTTGART

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN (0318 VICE 036)

FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJ: BADEN WUERTTEMBERG CDU HOPES FOR STABILITY IN  
BONN UNDER SCHMIDT

1. SUMMARY: THE CDU LEADERSHIP HERE BELIEVES THE  
MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE IN THE BRANDT RESIGNATION REMAINS  
THE CLARIFICATION OF THE FULL REASONS FOR HIS ACTION,  
ESPECIALLY THE POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE FACTOR OF DISCLO-  
SURES BY GUILLAUME. THE CONSERVATIVE B/W CDU HAS  
MADE STRONG REPRESENTATION OF ITS VIEWS IN BONN AT  
CDU PRESIDUM AND BUNDESTAG LEVELS THAT THE CDU SHOULD  
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AT ALL COSTS AVOID PUSHING THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR, HOWEVER,

BECAUSE IT COULD OPEN A PANDORA'S BOX OF PROBLEMS. THE LOCAL PARTY IS PARTICULARLY EAGER TO AVOID BEING BRANDED AS UPSETTING DETENTE POLICIES OR PUTTING A ROAD BLOCK IN THE WAY OF FURTHER SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENTS TO THE SERIES OF ALREADY EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN FRG AND GDR. THEY RECOGNIZE THE CDU IS BOTH UNPREPARED TO TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT OR TO CALL FOR NEW ELECTIONS. THEREFORE THE LOCAL CDU LEADERS HOPE SCHMIDT TAKES OVER SMOOTHLY AND THEY INTEND TO BE A LOYAL OPPOSITION. IF SCHMIDT FAILS, AS MANY OF THEM FEEL HE WILL, THE LOCAL

CDU LEADERS (FILBINGER AND HIS CABINET) SEE NO OTHER REASONABLE PROSPECT THAN NEW ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. INTERIOR MIN SCHIESS REVIEWED THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION MAY 14. HE EXPECTS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TO GO TO SCHEEL WITH LITTLE DIFFICULTY. HE EXPECTS SCHMIDT TO TAKE OVER WITHOUT DIFFICULTY, BUT HE AND HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES ARE NOT CERTAIN OR UNANIMOUS ABOUT SCHMIDT'S PROSPECTS EITHER IN THE GOVERNMENT OR WITHIN THE COALITION PARTIES. THE FIRST BIG TEST WILL BE THE LOWER SAXONY ELECTIONS JUNE 9.

3. BRANDT'S OWN STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN A MAJOR CAUSE OF LOCAL CDU PUZZLEMENT OVER HIS RESIGNATION. THEY FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT BRANDT WOULD PUBLICLY RULE HIMSELF OUT AS POSSIBLY COMPROMISED AND OBJECTLY UNABLE TO PURSUE OST AND DEUTSCHLANDPOLITIK. THEY SENSE THE PAIN THIS HAS CAUSED IN THE SPD AND FDP. THEY ARE SHAKEN BY THE EXPLOSIVE POTENTIAL OF "THE MESS" WHICH GUILLAUME COULD SPILL.

4. IN THE INITIAL CDU PRESIDUM DELIBERATION ON BRANDT'S RESIGNATION, GERHARD SCHROEDER HAD PROPOSED BLOWING THE SPD OUT OF OFFICE OVER GUILLAUME, BUT THE B/W REPS HAD INSTINCTIVELY PUT ON THE BRAKES, SAYING THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE TOO UPREDICTABLE AND POTENTIALLY TOO SEVERE. RATHER, THE PARTY SHOULD AVOID POLEMICS AND LET THE PUBLIC ITSELF JUDGE THE RESULTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE EASTERN POLICY. BESIDES, SINCE THE PUBLIC WAS ALREADY INCREASINGLY DISAPPOINTED WITH LESS THAN ANTICIPATED BENEFITS FOR THE FRG, IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO PUSH TOO HARD.

5. ASKED IF STRAUSS OR THE CSU MIGHT PRESS FOR FULL DISCLOSURE OF GUILLAUME'S REPORTS TO THE GDR OR DISCLOSURES TO HIS FRG INTERROGATORS, SCHIESS SAID HE

DOUBTED IT BUT COULD NOT RULE IT OUT COMPLETELY. THE CSU WOULDN'T NEED GUILLAUME TO WIN THE BAVARIAN ELECTIONS. RATHER, SCHIESS BELIEVES THE ACTION MIGHT BE IN KARLSRUHE WITH THE NEW FRG ATTORNEY GENERAL WHO WOULD IN TURN BE INFLUENCED OR PERHAPS DIRECTED BY THE NEW MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN BONN.

6. ASKED ABOUT B/W PUBLIC VIEWS, SCHIESS SAID IT HAS BEEN REMARKABLE HOW LITTLE THE PUBLIC HAS DEMANDED TO KNOW ABOUT GUILLAUME AND THE CENTRAL ISSUES. THE PUBLIC SEEMS SATISFIED TO ACCEPT BRAND'T'S ASSUMPTION OF FULL RESPONSIBILITY AND TO WAIT AND SEE HOW SCHMIDT HANDLES THE GOVERNMENT. THE MAIN REASON IS THE PUBLIC' PRESENTLY OVER- RIDING CONCERN WITH SECURITY: SECURITY OF THEIR JOBS, SECURITY OF THEIR MONEY (INFLATION), PHYSICAL SECURITY OF THEIR PERSONS AND PROPERTY, AND SECURITY OF THEIR GOVERNMENT SYSTEM. NO ONE WANTS TO RUN ANY "UNNECESSARY" RISKS. THIS CLIMATE DOES GIVE SCHMIDT A CHANCE TO SUCCEED AT LEAST TEMPORARILY EVEN THOUGH THE PROBLEMS HE FACES ARE ALMOST OVERWHELMING.

7. SHOULD SCHMIDT FAIL, SCHIESS SAID THE B/W CDU SAW NO PROSPECT OF AVOIDING NEW ELECTIONS. HE RULED OUT A MAJOR COALITION OF CDU AND SPD EXCEPT IF THERE SHOULD BE AN OVERWHELMING NATIONAL CRISIS. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE CDU FELT ITSELF IN NO POSITION NOW TO ENTER AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. RUCHTI

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